

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 15469 230939Z

15

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OPR-02 A-01 SY-05 OC-05

CCO-00 SCCT-01 ACDA-05 IO-10 DHA-02 /094 W

----- 003589

O R 230915Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7808

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 15469

DELIVER TO DRAPER, NEA,ARN OPENING OF BUSINESS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: 0900 LEBANON REPORT

1. WHILE THERE WAS SOME NOISE IN THE BEIRUT OUTSKIRTS LAST NIGHT, THE CENTER OF THE CITY WAS RELATIVELY CALM. THE BUSINESS AREA IS NEVERTHELESS TOTALLY DEAD, AND TRAFFIC IS STILL VERY LIGHT AND AFTER 4 P.M. NON-EXISTENT.

2. INTEREST TODAY OF COURSE CENTERED OUTSIDE OF BEIRUT IN ZAHLE. CHAMOUN EXAGGERATING INTENSITY OF SHOOTING IN THE AREA AND NUMBERS INVOLVED. CHAMOUN ONCE AGAIN AVOIDED THE TRUTH WHEN HE STATED PUBLICLY THAT A LARGE NUMBER OF FOREIGN TROOPS WERE ENGAGED. WHAT IS MORE SIGNIFICANT IN ZAHLE HOWEVER IS FACT THAT ARMY IS INVOLVED IN PROTECTING A CHRISTIAN CITY FROM UNFRIENDLY ELEMENTS. WE FEAR THAT AS MANY AS EIGHT SOLDIERS MAY HAVE BEEN KILLED. REPORTS RE AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE ARE DEFINITELY FALSE AND MENTION OF 10,000 ATTACKERS OF ZAHLE IS EXAGGERATION IN THAT MORE RESPONSIBLE PERSONS BELIEVE ATTACKERS MIGHT RPT MIGHT NUMBER 2,500.

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3. FIGHTING IN MANSOURIEH WAS SERIOUS AND COULD MEAN TROUBLE IN THE MOUNTAINS WHICH HAVE UP TO NOW BEEN RELATIVELY PEACEFUL.

4. BEIRUT STILL FOLLOWS TERRORISM AGAINST OPEC WITH GREAT INTEREST. ONE CAN NEARLY HEAR THE SIGH OF RELIEF THAT OTHERS HAVE TROUBLES.
GODLEY

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NNN

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